

## Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1101

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 379

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CRAIG LOSES SUPPORT AS M.P. ROBERT BRADFORD RESIGNS  
FROM VANGUARD

1. REV. ROBERT BRADFORD M.P. FOR SOUTH BELFAST ANNOUNCED RESIGNATION FROM VANGUARD PARTY NOVEMBER 19 AND INTENTION TO JOIN OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY. BRADFORD GAVE AS REASONS HIS SUPPORT AT FIRST FOR CRAIG THEN RECONSIDERATION THREE PROMISES HE HAD MADE TO ELECTORATE: (A) UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) CONVENTION MEMBERS WOULD DISCUSS FULLY WITH ALL ELECTED MEMBERS CONVENTION. THEREFORE DECISION TO DISCONTINUE TALKS WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) ON SEPTEMBER 8 WAS WRONG (B) SECOND PROMISE WAS THAT BRADFORD WOULD NOT HAVE SDLP IN GOVERNMENT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. BRADFORD SAID HE HAS NO MANDATE FROM ELECTORATE EVEN FOR VOLUNTARY COALITION GOVERNMENT (C) BRADFORD HAD COMMITTED HIMSELF TO MAINTAINING UNITY OF ALL TRADITIONAL UNIONISTS. WHILE UNITY LOOKED REMOTE RECENTLY, HE SAID, RECENT INFORMATION RELATING TO NATURE OF DEVOLUTION FOR SCOTLAND WALES COULD HELP THREE PARTY LEADERS REGAIN UNIONIST UNITY. BRADFORD CONTINUED WITH HIS BELIEF MOST LIKELY OUTCOME OF CONSTITUTIONAL UNCERTAINTY WILL BE THAT NORTHERN IRELAND WILL SHARE PROPOSED PLANS FOR DEVOLUTION IN THE WHOLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. BRADFORD DECISION PERHAPS BALANCED SOMEWHAT WITH RECENT STATEMENT PADDY DEVLIN (SDLP)

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THAT TEN OFFICIAL UNIONISTS WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT IDEA OF

VOLUNTARY COALITION IN "PHASE TWO" OF CONVENTION.

2. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS: LOCAL PRESS HIGHLIGHTED EXCHANGE  
IN COMMONS NOV. 19 BETWEEN OPPOSITION LEADER MARGARET THACHER  
AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN IN WHICH MRS. THATCHER EXPRESSED  
DISMAY THAT GOVERNMENT DECISION ON ULSTER CONVENTION REPORT WOULD  
NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL YEAR YEAR. PRESS ALSO NOTED ELECTION  
ENOCH POWELL M.P. FOR SOUTH DOWN AS DEPUTY LEADER UUUC AT WESTMINSTER  
TO REPLACE SUSPENDED WILLIAM CRAIG. POWELL SHARES STATUS WITH IAN  
PAISLEY AS DEPUTY LEADERS TO JAMES MOLYNEAUX. TEN MORE DETAINEES  
RELEASED YESTERDAY LEAVING 103 IN DETENTION. SOME OF THOSE  
REMAINING WILL NOT RPT NOT BE RELEASED BY CHRISTMAS SINCE THEY  
HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF CRIMES SUBSEQUENT TO BEING DETAINED.  
SPICER

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